to meet the demand of coal by power stations located in Western and Southern India;

(b) the problems faced by CIL in this regard; and

(c) how the gap in coal despatch has been met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) During the strike at Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), efforts were made to ensure that coal supplies to the power stations linked to that company were not affected. Coal to an extent of nearly 11.00 lakh tonnes was supplied from the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) to various power houses linked to SCCL. These supplies were made from Western Coalfields Ltd. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. As a result of these efforts, all the power houses served by SCCL continued almost normal generation of power during the strike period. The extra supplies from the subsidiaries of CIL was made from stocks as well as by diverting coal meant for consumers linked to CIL.

Schemes for Self-Employment

1348. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored scheme for self-employment have been launched in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) The centrally sponsored schemes for self-employment currently in operation in the States and Union Territories including Punjab are (i) the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) which aims at providing self-employment opportunities to the rural poor through assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit to enable them to acquire productive assets and appropriate skills to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis and (ii) as part of the Nehru Rozgar Yojana, the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME), of which aims at skill upgradation and provision of subsidy and loan to urban poor beneficiaries with the objective of setting up micro enterprises in industries, services and business.

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance of Research Organisations in Exports

1349. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek the assistance of research organisations to identify openings in exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government have been getting studies done by researchers from time to time. Recently, the Goverment have assigned studies on increased export possibilities in the post-Uruguay Round era, in three sectors viz. agriculture and allied products, industrial goods and services, by research organisations so as to locate areas, identify products, countries, and supportive policy measures required to exploit India's export potential.

Duping of Money by Agencies Sending Manpower Abroad

1350. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI NAGMANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Goverment that some agencies